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Smog and Cancer

The smog-filled skies of New Jersey's industrial areas are cause for public apprehension as new clues to lung cancer continue to unfold through medical research.

Two reports in the November issue of the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, based on studies made in the School of Medicine at the University of Southern California, suggest that not until the New Jersey Department of Health succeeds in ridding New Jersey of its ever-increasing smog can the public feel that its health is adequately protected.

The cancer institute reports find that smog as well as smoke from both filtered and nonfiltered cigarets affect the defenses that nature has provided in the respiratory tract of human beings to resist cancer causing chemicals.

Such chemicals interfere with the mucous fluids and hair-like structures called cilla. Tests made on frogs suggest that smog and its air pollutants constitute a serious menace to public health.

New Jersey has laws covering smog but the current standard of enforcement does not indicate that any substantial results have been obtained. Certainly the state has been more than patient in giving offending industries or the operators of open dumps time to take corrective action.

Smog alone cannot be blamed entirely for the rising incidence of lung cancer. But it cannot be tolerated for long in the face of the repeated warnings from responsible medical sources. Even if it plays only a minute part in the cancer threat it must be eradicated with all possible speed.

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/rncm0000